

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 are pending in this application. Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10-12 and 14-16 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly point out what applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to point out that the method comprises a contact step during or after the exposure step and an irradiating step with actinic light during or after said contact step. Support for these features can be found, for example, in paragraphs 0022 (page 18), 0033 (page 26) and 0034 (page 27), of the present specification. Claim 1 also has been amended to indicate that the silicone and/or fluorine compounds contained in the liquid are modified with a reactive functional group. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph 0023 (page 19) of the specification, for example.

Claims 17-19 have been added to address certain embodiments of the specification in a more specific manner. Support for these claims in the specification can be found, for example, as follows: claim 17 (paragraph 0034 - page 27); claim 18 (paragraph 0034 - page 27); and claim 19 (paragraphs 0026 - page 21 and 0031 - page 24). Claims 3 and 6 have been amended to correct improper multiple claim dependency. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the foreign priority documents. Also noted is the Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 26, 2006.

Rejections: § 102

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either Fan (U.S. Patent No. 5,719,009) or Haraguchi et al. (US 2002/0034706). Without acquiescing in the propriety of either rejection, applicants have canceled claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer to expedite prosecution of this application. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn as moot.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsumiya et al. (JP2002-292985). The Examiner is requested to confirm that the correct document was cited in this rejection as applicants are unable to locate (at the points identified by the Examiner or anywhere else in this document or its machine translation) the teachings the Examiner attributes to it. In any event, Applicants take strong exception to the suggestion that Matsumiya et al. anticipates any of these claims.

The Office suggests that Matsumiya et al. discloses a water-developable photopolymer plate that is subjected to an exposure step, development step and post-exposure step (citing paragraphs 0001 and 0027). Applicants are unable to locate such teachings either in the cited paragraphs or anywhere else in this document.

The Office further argues that Matsumiya et al. discloses bringing a photopolymer plate into contact with a liquid developer comprising a modified silicone compound and/or a modified fluorine compound during or after the exposure step (citing paragraphs 0016-0017 and examples). Although Matsumiya et al. lists several examples of silicone and fluorine compounds to be used as an ink repellent element (translated as "ink nature material" in the machine translation), there is no teaching,

suggestion or example of a silicone or fluorine compound modified with a reactive function group as now specified in these claims.

Finally, the Office suggests that paragraphs 0018-0025 of Matsumiya et al. teach ingredients of the photopolymer in the printing photo. A careful reading of this document will show that the description in paragraphs 0018-0025 is directed to an aqueous resin contained in the contamination - prevention agent, but is not directed to the constituent ingredients of a photopolymer constituting a printing plate. For at least, each of the reasons described above, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 also have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoyama (EP 0539227). While Yokoyama does describe the basic process steps of imagewise exposure, development and postcuring the printing plate, there is no disclosure of the recited contact step, a silicone and/or fluorine compound modified with a reactive functional group, or an irradiation step with atomic light as presently recited in all claims under rejection.

The Office has argued that Yokoyama discloses the photopolymer plate brought into contact with a liquid comprising a modified silicone and/or fluorine compound during or after the exposure step (citing the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 and page 4, lines 5-9). Applicants disagree since a careful reading of Yokoyama at the sections cited by the Examiner will show that the use of the hydrophobic compound that may contain at least one fluorine, chlorine or silicon element is to be added to the resin composition constituting the photopolymer plate and NOT as part of a liquid that is brought into contact with the photopolymer plate. Yokoyama neither anticipates nor

renders obvious the method as claimed. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Prompt and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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